



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**A**nd just like that, Summer 2019 is coming to an end. It has been a wonderful one, filled with great events and people. As hard as it is to let this season go, Fall 2019 is already gearing up for more excitement at the Akron Bar Association.

Around the Akron Bar, we have been busy preparing for the significant change to Ohio notary laws.

When word first began to circulate a few years ago that the General Assembly was contemplating changing the way that notaries were trained, tested and renewed (which would have a negative impact on the Akron Bar's income stream generated by notary testing and renewals), the Ohio metropolitan bars (Akron, Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Toledo, and Dayton) along with the Ohio State Bar Association began to explore whether there was some way to capitalize on the coming changes in a way that would provide a monetary benefit to replace that disappearing income.

Those discussions came to fruition in early 2019 with the formation of Ohio Notary Services, LLC, a for-profit entity created by the Akron, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, Dayton, and Ohio State Bar Associations. Ohio Notary Services has been selected by the Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose to provide education, testing, and renewal services for traditional notaries and has also been chosen as the exclu-

sive provider of education, testing, and renewal services for the new "electronic notary" designation in Ohio.

Allen Nichols, the Akron Bar's Executive Director, was a visionary behind this project. As such, it is fitting that Ohio Notary Services will be housed at the Akron Bar, with Allen taking on the Executive Director role of that entity as well. The Akron Bar will receive income from Ohio Notary Services in the form of rent and for reimbursement for Allen's services. Ohio Notary Services has already hired its first employee, and will be ready for the effective date of Ohio's new notary laws, September 20, 2019.

What a fantastic example of creativity, collaboration, and innovation! This brief overview can in no way capture the enormous amount of thought and work that went into the creation of Ohio Notary Services. Significant congratulations and kudos are due to Allen, without which this project would never have gotten off the ground, let alone landed where it did!

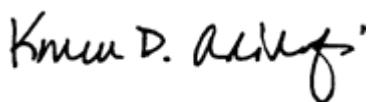
September also brings one of my favorite events, the Akron Bar Association's celebration of Constitution Day. Scheduled this year for September 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Main Branch of the Akron-Summit County Public Library, this event celebrates the adoption of the United States Constitution as well as those who will become United States citizens that day. This year, Magistrate Kathleen Burke of the United States

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District Court for the Northern District of Ohio will swear in those individuals from all over the world who have completed the requirements for United States citizenship. Immigration and citizenship are divisive topics today; no matter which side you are on, this event is an inspiring and emotional one. You will see those who have made their way to this country, made the commitment to become United States citizens, and followed through on that commitment. Come and see for yourself! The Constitution Day Committee is always looking for new members for this very rewarding experience - please contact committee chair Farhad Sethna if you would like to join.

This month's New Lawyer Spotlight rests on Drew

Reilly, a 2017 graduate of the University of Akron School of Law and is currently a judicial attorney for Judge Nicole Walker of the Akron Municipal Court. Additionally, while studying for and after taking the bar examination in 2017, Drew campaigned for and was elected to Cuyahoga Falls City Council in its Ward 1, where he is an active and vocal advocate for his constituents and the city itself. He has also done pro bono work in the area of immigration. I first met Drew in the Employment Law class that I teach at the University of Akron School of Law in the spring of 2017; he was one of my "go-to" students and I could always count on him for interesting and thoughtful insights. I can't wait to see what he does in the future!



**Karen D. Adinolfi**, President